

COMMENTS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on March 22, 2004. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1-19 were pending. By way of the present response Applicants have: 1) amended claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-15, and 17-19; 2) added no claims; and 3) deleted no claims. As such, claims 1-19 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all claims.

The Drawings

The Applicant has submitted replacement drawings for Figure 2 with a modification directed to the correction of mere matters of form. This change has been shown in an annotated copy as well as a revised version of Figure 2. With respect to Figure 2, the Applicant has changed label 216 to 212.

Claim Objections

The Examiner rejected Claim 7 and 12 because of the following informalities: In Line 3 of Claim 7 and Line 4 of Claim 12 "external central processing unit" should be "external processor" for consistency. Appropriate correction is required.

Applicants have amended claims 7 and 12 pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Rejections

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Additionally, claim 17 recites the limitation "external central processing unit" in line 4. The Examiner stated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Applicants have amended claim 17 pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. 102(e) Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,275,861, Chaudri, et al. (hereinafter "Chaudri").

In regards to independent claim 1, the Examiner states the phrase "wherein the combination is dynamically modifiable..." is met by Chaudri. Pg. 3, item 8 of the office action mailed 3/22/04. Chaudri discloses that registers are memory locations for flow identification. For example, Chaudri states, "In this embodiment is depicted search engine 110 including registers or similar memory locations for flow identification..." Col. 6, lines 41-43. Chaudri further states that, "According to one embodiment of the invention, these registers are the alterable parameters of search engine 104..." (emphasis added). Col. 6, lines 45-48. Applicants submit that the

alterable registers from Chaudri are not the same as a combination of fields in a header that are dynamically modifiable. The specification discloses what is meant by dynamically modifiable on page 4, lines 16-20.

“Also, this technique provides a mechanism to dynamically modify the class information and the fields in IPv4 packet header used to convey such information. In other words, during normal operations of a network stack, this technique allows a change from a first classification using a first combination of fields in IPv4 packet header to a second classification using a second combination of fields” (emphasis added).

Nowhere does Chaudri disclose, teach or suggest that alterable registers are dynamically alterable (emphasis added). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and all its dependent claims are not anticipated by Chaudri, and should be allowed as presented.

In regards to independent claim 5, the Examiner’s rejection stated that the claim language “by utilizing a dynamically modifiable combination of fields in a header...” is met by Chaudri at col.4, lines 58-64, col.6, lines 45-49, col. 2, lines 55-58 and col. 8, lines 4-7. Pg. 4, item 12 of the office action mailed 3/22/04. As mentioned in the above paragraph, Chaudri does not disclose, teach or suggest the dynamic modification of a combination of header fields. Chaudri simply discloses that registers are alterable parameters in a search engine. More specifically, Chaudri states that, “According to one embodiment of the invention, these registers are the alterable parameters of search engine 104...” (emphasis added). Col. 6, lines 45-48 of Chaudri. Applicants submit that the alterable registers from Chaudri are not the

same as utilizing a combination of header fields that are dynamically modifiable (emphasis added). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 5 and all its dependent claims are not anticipated by Chuadri, and should be allowed as presented.

In regards to independent claim 10, the Examiner's rejection stated that the claim language "by utilizing a dynamically modifiable combination of fields in a header..." is met by Chaudri at col. 4, lines 45-47 and lines 58-67, and col. 6, lines 22-63. Pg. 5, item 16 of the office action mailed 3/22/04. As mentioned above, Chaudri does not disclose, teach or suggest the dynamic modification of a combination of header fields. Chaudri simply discloses that registers are alterable parameters in a search engine. More specifically, Chaudri states that "According to one embodiment of the invention, these registers are the alterable parameters of search engine 104..." (emphasis added). Col. 6, lines 45-48 of Chaudri. Applicants submit that the alterable registers from Chaudri are not the same as utilizing a combination of header fields that are dynamically modifiable (emphasis added). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 10 and all its dependent claims are not anticipated by Chuadri, and should be allowed as presented.

In regards to independent claim 15, the Examiner's rejection stated that the claim language "by utilizing a dynamically modifiable combination of fields in a header..." is met by Chaudri at col.4, lines 58-64, col.6, lines 45-49, col. 2, lines 55-58 and col. 8, lines 4-7. Pg. 7, item 20 of the office action mailed 3/22/04. As mentioned above, Chaudri does not disclose, teach or suggest the dynamic modification of a combination of header fields. Chaudri simply discloses that

registers are alterable parameters in a search engine. "According to one embodiment of the invention, these registers are the alterable parameters of search engine 104..." (emphasis added). Col. 6, lines 45-48 of Chaudri. Applicants submit that the alterable registers from Chaudri are not the same as utilizing a combination of header fields that are dynamically modifiable (emphasis added). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 15 and all its dependent claims are not anticipated by Chuadri, and should be allowed as presented.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 6, 11 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,275,861, Chaudri, et al. (hereinafter "Chaudri") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,875, Chopra, et al. (hereinafter "Chopra").

Claims 6, 11 and 16 all depend on independent claims 5, 10 and 15, respectively. Applicants submit that Chaudri does not anticipate independent claims 5, 10 and 15. Applicants further submit that all the elements of claims 6, 11 and 16 are not met by the combined teachings of both Chaudri and Chopra. As such claims 6, 11 and 16 are allowable as presented.


In light of the comments above, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of all claims.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Michael J. Mallie at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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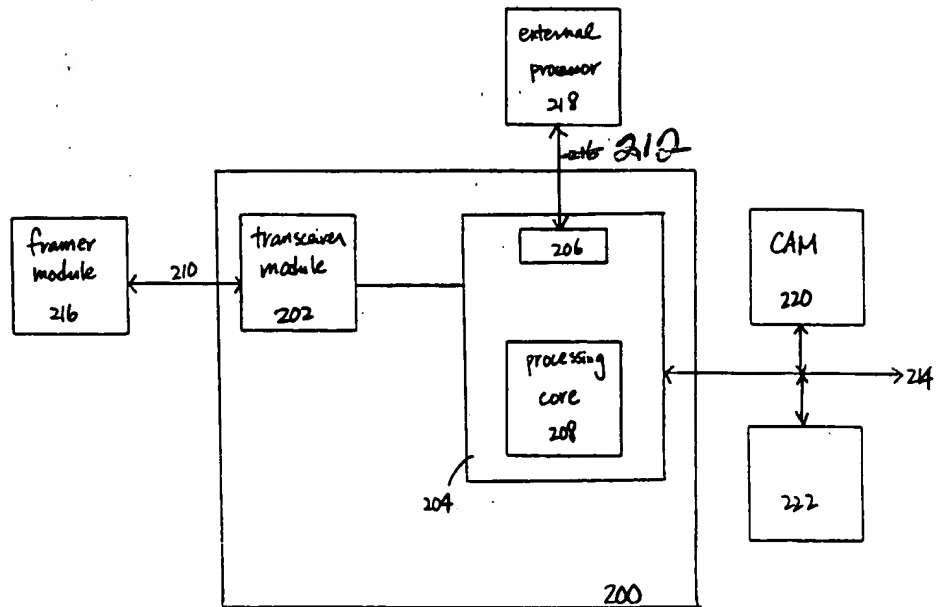


Figure 2